(i) Conversion of underground mines to Opencast mines wherever practicable.

(ii) Mechanisation of underground mines wherever feasible by introducing intermediate technology with Side Discharge Loaders, Load Haul Dumpers and Continuous Miners.

(iii) Encouraging Voluntary Retirement Scheme to reduce manpower.

(iv) Effective utilization of existing resources by motivating to achieve higher productivity through incentives.

(v) Improvement in coal quality to improve consumer satisfaction and sales realization.

(vi) To take steps in co-ordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in coalfield areas.having potential for enhanced production.

Shovel Machine destroyed in Jayanta Project of Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singarauli

†3053. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shovel machine worth rupees more than 2 crore got destroyed after sinking into OV due to negligence of officers during the last three four months in Jayanta Project of the Northern Coal Fields Limited, Singarauli;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the entire issue has been hushed up and no action had been taken against the officers concerned; and

(c) whether Government will take strict action against the guilty officers after getting the entire matter looked into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) It is not a fact that the Shovel has been destroyed after sinking into OB in Jayanta project. An incident occurred in the month of August, 2001 (monsoon period) when a Shovel was partially damaged by sudden slide of OB while working near a hillock. Shovel was partially damaged and was taken out for recommissioning/repair on the 3rd day itself.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The incident has been thoroughly enquired into and examined by a committee consisting of senior officers and the enquiry report has been submitted to NCL. As per finding of the enquiry disciplinary action against concerned officer is under process and Shovel Operator and Mining Sirdar have been issued charge sheet.

Linkage of WCL for Ukai

3054. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether GEB committed to SLC that no further coal would be imported for Ukai TPS provided WCL linkage is granted;

(b) whether linkage of WCL is not granted since the last quarter;

(c) whether linkage committee granted mid term linkage of WCL for Ukai;

(d) whether the linkage did not materialise due to railways refusal; and

(e) whether Railways would consider to materialise linkage in view of saving by using WCL coal in place of Main Line Coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The linkages of coal are granted by Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) every quarter in consultation with Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Coal Companies, State Electricity Boards as well as the Railways. Despite commitments given by Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) not to import coal for Ukai TPS, GEB had imported coal for Ukai TPS during 2000-01.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the last meeting of SLC held in 27.9.2001, WCL linkage has not been granted to GEB.

(c) Ukai TPS was granted a mid-term linkage of 50,000 tonnes per month from WCL for the quarter January-March, 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Ministry of Railways are not agreeable to move coal from WCL to Ukai TPS in view of adverse financial implications and idling/wastage of infrastructure created for transportation of coal from the coalfields of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) to the power stations of GEB.